

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY:S/S/O:HCOLLUMS

APPROVEDBY:S/S-O:ASHANKLE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO DIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 102096

EXDIS - MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING MADRID 3227 SENT ACTION SECSTATE APR 26; REPEATED  
TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 3227

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SP

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH FRAGA IRIBARNE

1. A MEETING ATWOOD AND I HAD WITH MINISTER OF THE  
INTERIOR MANUEL FRAGA IRIBARNE ON SATURDAY MORNING (APRIL 24)  
RELLECTED SOME OF THE CONFUSION OVER THE DIRECTION THE PRIME  
MINISTER WILL TAKE IN HIS APRIL 28 TELEVISION ADDRESS.

2. AFTER A BRIEF EXCHANGE OF PLEASANTRIES, FRAGA RECEIVED A  
TELEPHONE CALL FROM THE KING AND SPOKE TO HIM IN OUR PRESENCE.  
HE SAID THAT HE HAD NOT SEEN THE PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH BUT  
HAD BEEN TOLD OF THE MAJOR POINTS. (HE SEEMED TO BE RESPONDING  
TO A KING WHO WAS ALSO VERY MUCH IN THE DARK.) FRAGA TOLD THE  
KING HE THOUGHT THE SPEECH HAD BEEN VIDEOTAPED APRIL 23 AND  
THAT HE WAS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT IT. (ANOTHER SOURCE SUGGESTED  
THE VIDEOTAPING MIGHT TAKE PLACE TODAY.)

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3. LATER REFERRING TO THE UPCOMING SPEECH, FRAGA SAID WITH SOME FORCE THAT THERE WOULD BE NO MAJOR CHANGE IN THE GOVT'S PROGRAM WITH THE SINGLE EXCEPTION THAT PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS WOULD COME BEFORE THE MUNICIPAL. HE SAID THAT THE REFERENDUM WOULD NOT BE MOVED UP TO LATE JUNE (MANY OTHERS ARE SAYING IT WILL BE MOVED UP) AND STRESSED THAT THE ELECTORAL CENSUS WOULD NOT BE COMPLETED UNTIL SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER.

4. ASKED WHETHER THIS WAS THE ONLY REASON FOR DELAY AND WHETHER THE CORTES APPROVAL OF THE LAWS OF POLITICAL ASSOCIATIONS, MEETINGS AND THE REFORM OF THE PENAL CODE WILL TAKE LONGER THAN EXPECTED, HE REPLIED NEGATIVELY TO THAT AND SAID HE WAS SURE THAT THE CORTES WOULD MOVE QUICKLY TO MAKE THE CHANGES.

5. HE FELT THE SPEECH WOULD BE SOMEWHAT "DISILLUSIONING" AND SAID THAT WE MUST UNDERSTAND THAT ARIAS SIMPLY CANNOT CHANGE HIS METHODS AT HIS AGE. "BESIDES", HE SAID, "THE GOVT IS MOVING AHEAD AS IT SAID IT WOULD. THAT IS ALL THAT IS IMPORTANT." I POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS ALL WELL AND GOOD TO SAY THIS, BUT A LOT OF EXPECTATIONS HAD BEEN CREATED BY ARIAS' SPEECH, AND THIS WAS ALSO A REALITY THE GOS HAD TO KEEP IN MIND.

6. FRAGA EXPRESSED SOME IMPATIENCE WITH THE PRESS AND OPPOSITION AND SAID THAT THE GOVT COULD NOT MAKE THEM HAPPY ANYWAY AND "WE MUST UNDERSTAND THAT THEY DO NOT REPRESENT THE VIEWS OF THE SPANISH PEOPLE." HE SAID THAT ARIAS MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE VIEWS OF THE CENTER RIGHT AND THE RIGHT AND THAT THESE VIEWS ARE NOT HEARD IN THE PRESS.

7. ASKED BY ATWOOD IF HE MIGHT DESCRIBE THE SPEECH AS "DEFENSIVE", FRAGA RESPONDED AFFIRMATIVELY AND ADDED, "WE MUST SHOW THAT WHAT WE HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF IS NOT TRUE." TO ILLUSTRATE THIS, HE SAID THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MIXED COMMISSION WILL BE ANNOUNCED EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE STILL SOME OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS.

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8. ATWOOD SAID THERE WAS SUPPORT FOR THE TREATY IN THE SENATE BUT THAT LOSS OF INITIATIVE ON THE PART OF THE GOVT MIGHT CAUSE DELAY IN THE SENATE'S CONFIRMATION. FRAGA REACTED QUICKLY SAYING, "THE TREATY IS MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU THAN TO US. IF YOU DON'T WANT IT FINE, THAT IS YOUR BUSINESS. BUT IF IT IS DELAYED, THE SUPPORT IT NOW HAS WITHIN THE GOVT WILTCO  
YMDE." STABLER UNQUOTE

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## Message Attributes

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